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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-0  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /091 W

-----067597 261914Z /43

R 242130Z MAY 79  
FM-AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 815  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release ☒ Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B6

Declassify: ( ) In Part ☒ In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4233

E.O. 12065: XDS-2 5/24/09 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
TAGS: SHUM PINS AR  
SUBJ: [REDACTED] ALLEGED LETTER FROM DISAPPEARED ARGENTINE JARA DE CABEZAS

1. [REDACTED] SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: EMBASSY RECEIVED ON MAY 18  
A HAND WRITTEN LETTER ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR CASTRO PURPORTEDLY FROM  
THELMA DOROTY JARA DE CABEZAS POSTMARKED FROM SAO PAULO  
BRAZIL ON MAY 5. SRA. JARA DE CABEZAS, SECRETARY OF  
THE COMMISSION OF FAMILIES OF DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED  
PERSONS (FDD), WAS REPORTED DISAPPEARED ON APRIL 30  
AFTER VISITING HER HUSBAND IN A CANCER CLICC. SHE  
HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE; HOWEVER, FDD ACQUAINTANCES  
REPORTEDLY HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM HER POSTMARKED  
FROM URUGUAY AND BRAZIL AND AT LEAST ONE PHONE CALL FROM  
HER ATTESTING TO HER GOOD HEALTH. AT FIRST DUBIOUS ABOUT  
THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LETTER SHE RECEIVED, MRS. CABEZAS'  
MOTHER REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THE HAANDWRITING WAS HER  
DAUGHTER'S--WHICH DOES NOT, OF COURSE, FULLY ADDRESS THE  
QUESTION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS PREPARATION, OR THE

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LETTER RECEIVED AT THE EMBASSY. IT APPEARS TO US THE

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LETTER RAISES SEVERAL QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

2. [REDACTED] IN THE LETTER, MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS FIRST COPIED A LETTER SHE CLAIMS TO HAVE SENT TO PRESIDENT VIDELA, BUENOS AIRES ARCHBISHOP MONSGR. ARAMBURU, AND THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THEREIN SHE CONTENTS THAT IN HER GRIEF AS MOTHER OF A DISAPPEARED SON, GUSTAVO ALEJANDRO, SHE WAS DUPED INTO WORKING WITH SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WHICH SHE HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO EXPOSE AND REJECT. SHE DESCRIBES HER SOJOURN TO MEXICO ON JANUARY 2, AT THE BEHEST OF HER EXILED SON DANIEL, A MEMBER OF THE MONTONERO PERONIST MOVEMENT (MPM), WHO PERSUADED HER TO COLLABORATE WITH HIS MONTONERO COMRADES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH HER ACTIVITIES WITH THE FDD. IN MEXICO SHE WAS INTERVIEWED BY MPM ACTIVISTS IN A HOUSE ON CALLE EXTREMADURA. [REDACTED] LATER, THE LETTER GOES ON, MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS MET WITH "CAPITAN" MARIA ANTONIA BERGER, WHO BROUGHT HER TO EUROPE ON MAY 10 TO MEET WITH MONTONERO COLLEAGUES. FIRST IN MADRID, SHE AND BERGER WERE REBUFFED IN ATTEMPTS TO MEET WITH A SPANISH CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP AND UNSUCCESSFUL IN LOCATING METHODIST PASTOR LUIS POVEDA. LATER IN ROME THE POPE REFUSED TO RECEIVE MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS. HOWEVER, WHILE THERE SHE ATTENDED A WEEKLONG MEETING OF THE MONTONERO LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING MARIO EDUARDO FIRMENICH, OSCAR BIDEgain, JAIME DRI, (SHE NAMES 20 PERSONS IN ALL). AT THE MEETING THE MONTONEROS PLANNED THEIR "COUNTERATTACK" STRATEGY AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. SOME OF THE MONTONEROS, JAIME DRI AND RAFAEL LACUZZI, AGREED TO RETURN CLANDESTINELY TO ARGENTINA.

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3. [REDACTED] AFTER THE ROME MEETING, MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS RETURNED TO MEXICO CITY TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOTHERS OF PLAZA DE MAYO WHO HAD ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS WITH BISHOPS ATTENDING THE LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE IN PUEBLA. LATER, ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, BERGER GAVE HER INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT THE LIGA (LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, A COMMUNIST-FRONT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN BUENOS AIRES) ON HER RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES.

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4. [REDACTED] AT THIS POINT, MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS WRITES THAT SHE REALIZED HER CONTACTS WITH THE MONTONEROS WERE WRONG AND DESTRUCTIVE. SHE EMPHASIZES TO PRESIDENT VIDELA THAT SHE KNOWS HER LIFE IS AT STAKE AS THE MONTONEROS WILL NOT FORGIVE HER BETRAYAL AND SHE DOUBTS THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERSTAND HER. SHE ASKS VIDELA TO WARN OTHER MOTHERS FROM BEING DUPED BY SUBVERSIVES AND RECOMMENDS HE END THEIR DISTRESS BY EXPLAINING HOW AND WHY THEIR SONS DIED. THE MOTHERS, SHE SAYS, WILL UNDERSTAND AND FORGIVE. SHE ALSO ASKS VIDELA TO HELP THE MOTHERS FROM BEING MANIPULATED BY POLITICAL PARTIES SUCH AS THE COMMUNIST PARTY, (SOCIALIST) WORKERS PARTY AND MONTONEROS.

5. [REDACTED] AT THIS POINT THE LETTER IS DIRECTED TO AMBASSADOR CASTRO. MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS POINTS OUT THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS ALSO MAKING POLITICAL USE OF MOTHERS' GRIEF WHICH COULD LEAD ARGENTINA TO ANOTHER BLOODBATH. SHE ASKS THE AMBASSADOR TO DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE SO THAT GOA WILL UNDERSTAND, IF IT CANNOT JUSTIFY, HER ATTITUDE AND CONDUCT.

6. [REDACTED] THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE IS RTE. PROF.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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ABRAAO DE MORAIS [REDACTED] ] SAO PAULO, BRAZIL. B6

7. [REDACTED] COMMENT: A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY CONFIRMED MAY 24 THE ORGANIZATION ALSO RECEIVED PLETTER FROM MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS. WE ARE SEEKING TO VERIFY ITS RECEIPT AT THE PRESIDENCY, AS WELL AS TRACE THE SAO PAULO RETURN ADDRESS. THE LETTER COULD BE GENUINE, BUT WE CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE THAT  
[REDACTED]

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R 242130Z MAY 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 816  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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THE ~~LEGGER~~ IS A FORGERY OR MORE LIKELY, THAT MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS WAS COERCED INTO WRITING IT IN SOME ELABORATE PLOT TO THROW THE BLAME FOR HER DISAPPEARANCE OR DEATH ONTO THE MONTONEROS. OUR SUSPICIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY RECENT REMARKS REPORTED TO US MADE BY INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY TO THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET AMBASSADORS THAT, DESPITE EARLIER INDICATIONS OF HER BEING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, HE IS FOLLOWING LEADS INDICATING SHE WAS PICKED UP BY SELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY.

8. [REDACTED] INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ARE MIXED, SOME SUPPORTING THE THEORY THAT SHE LEFT OR WAS EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA; OTHERS DISCOUNTING THAT SHE COULD HAVE LEFT OR BEEN FORCED OUT WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ORDERED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO LOCATE THE WOMAN. IT APPEARS IMPROBABLE THAT HER ALLEGED COMMUNICATIONS TO FRIENDS BY PHONE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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AND POST HAVE NOT BEEN CHECKED OUT BY INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS.

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9. [REDACTED] ACTION REQUEST. MEXICO CITY: WOULD APPRECIATE  
CONFIRMATION OF THE ADDRESS AND PRESENCE OF DANIEL  
JARA DE CABEZAS AND MARIA ANTONIO BERGER IN MEXICO  
CITY. ROME: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION  
AVAILABLE ON ALLEGED MONTONERO MEETING AND PLANS  
AND POPE'S REFUSAL TO SEE MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS.  
SAO PAULO: BELIEVE REQUEST HAS COME TO YOU ALREADY THROUGH  
OTHER CHANNELS.  
CASTRO

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